PUDUKKOTTAI STATE

NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

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LECTURE CXII.

WHERE DOES INDIA STAND?

NOT POLITICIANS—BUT HER FIGHTING MEN WILL SAVE HER.

GEN. SIR A. WAVELL'S INSPIRING MESSAGE.

Taking it all round, we begin the fourth year of this war with much better prospects than we did the fourth year of the last war.

It is three years to-day, His Excellency continued, since we took up Germany's challenge—her challenge to Europe, to the World, to Democracy, to Liberty, Truth and Decency. We had gone to the utmost limit in concession to avoid war; and both our honour and safety required that we should "appease" no longer. To "appease" is defined in the dictionary as "to soothe or to satisfy" we realised that Hitler was as likely to be soothed as a tiger, as likely to be satisfied as a crocodile, which require corpses to appease their insatiable hunger.

We had no illusions as to our unpreparedness, no illusions as to the danger of our task, no illusions as to the losses we should incur in lives, in money, in comfort. We put ease behind us to fight for freedom; we gave up our wealth to defend justice; we risked all in order that truth and kindness might prevail on the earth. We thus saved our souls from an ignoble oftness, which was beginning to spread over us. Let us not forget then, that, with no hope of gain, with no thought of glory, with knowledge of all the suffering we should undergo, we never hesitated in our choice three years ago to resist German domination and tyranny.

The way has been harder, the trials greater even than we had supposed. At the moment, we are passing through a depressing and disappointing period, and are almost in danger of forgetting that we have already met, and endured, much darker, and more difficult hours.

CONFIDENCE AND COURAGE.

I have, as you know, recently returned from participating in momentous conferences in Cairo and Moscow. I can assure you that those conferences were permeated with no feeling whatever of depression, but with inspiring confidence and courage. The morale and fighting spirit of our forces in the Middle East, where practically all the United Nations are represented, is undiminished, despite their setbacks of June; and their offensive power is making a rapid recovery.

At Moscow, two great leaders met for the first time, established cordial relations, and imparted to one another the inflexible will of themselves and their peoples to fight on together in close co-operation. I have known and admired the Russian Nation and the Russian soldier for more than 30 years; their hardihood and courage are the same now as ever. They will not give way.

It is of some interest, and of some comfort on this anniversary to look back on the corresponding period of the last war, the Autumn of 1917. Then, our great Russian ally had collapsed after revolution; a large part of the French Army had mutinied after the disastrous defeat of Nivelle's offensive, and was only just beginning to recover; while the British Army, in order to take the weight off her Allies, was engaged in the bloody and profitless struggle of Passchendaele. Our Italian Allies were shortly to suffer disaster at Caporetto, and to require rescue; the enemy submarine campaign was at its height, and the sinkings heavier than to-day. The United States had declared war in April, but their army took many months to become effective, and their munitions programme never reached, even by the end of the war, the stage it has reached now.

BETTER PROSPECTS.

The outlook for 1918 was gloomy indeed, for all the German forces, freed from the Russian Front, were crossing Europe for a grand attack on the Western Front in the Spring. And yet before 1918 was out, our enemies everywhere were suing for peace.

To-day our Russian Allies, their " banner, torn, but flying," are still very much in the fighting line, and have no intention whatever of leaving it. They are striking back with vigour and success. The Germans, instead of ourselves, have to carry the Italians; and the United States have not only their vast munitions production in full swing, but great, and increasing numbers of their troops in full battle.

Taking it all round, we begin the fourth year of this war with much better prospects than we did the fourth year of the last war.

OUR ASSETS.

There are always those in war, who are inclined to see and to dwell on our own failures and disappointments, and to magnify the enemy's strength and success. It is better instead to reckon up our assets, and to look at our foe's difficulties. Our assets are impressive indeed. The four mightiest assemblies of peoples in the world—the British Empire, the United States of America, the Union of Soviet Republics of Russia, the great and ancient civilisation of China—all these are on our side, and the aid and sympathy of many others—of Poland, of Greece, of Czechoslovakia, of Belgium, of Holland, of Norway, of most of France, of the nations of South America. We have great leaders, Churchill, Roosevelt, Stalin, Chiang Kai-shek, men of unquenchable courage, who represent the spirit of the peoples they lead. The rising flow of munitions of all kinds, especially of ships, aeroplanes and tanks, is a sure guarantee of victory. And we have the stimulus of the great ideals for which we are fighting.

THE ENEMIES.

Consider now our enemies. The supreme German effort, which we all anticipated, has been made, has had some success, and is now beginning to falter. Despite all their conquests, they can find no peace, no nation willing to surrender to their lying promises or dire threats. Only their Rumanian and Hungarian dupes follow at their heels—cowed dogs, who snarl at each other, when their masters are not looking. The advantage the enemy held from their short interior line of communications is disappearing, as their columns begin to stretch out to the border of Asia.

The tide of hatred against the Germans in Europe continues to mount; as do their irreplaceable losses of men and material, while the allies have still large reserves of both intact. The savage execution of innocent hostages in increasing numbers is a measure of the German Army's growing fear of the future. Their leader, Hitler, is being recognised as a tin-horn gambler, whose run of luck is passing.

The shape of things to come is taking on an ever grimmer aspect for the German people; their hearts are sinking into their empty stomachs; soon they will sink still lower into their *ersatz* boots.

As for the Italians, they know they lost the war long ago, their only uncertainty is whether they have lost it to the Germans, or to the Allies.

JAP DREAMS.

For Japan also the tide has turned, the run of quick and easy success which carefully-planned treachery gave her, is over. Both her Fleet and her Air Force are beginning to melt, and her dreams of prosperity at the expense of the rest of Asia are vanishing.

Make no mistake though; these writings on the wall for our enemies do not yet justify any complacency on our part in mind or action. We must continue to give our undivided attention, our full sacrifice of body and mind to the task in hand.

Where does India stand with reference to this world war? The danger to her homes is closer than it has been for more than 150 years, but her armies and air forces are stronger and better equipped than ever before; her industrial progress in the making of munitions has been astonishing; and the military renown of her soldiers never stood higher.

To-day thousands of young Indian officers, and over a million men, have joined up to support India's magnificent pre-war Army, which has already played so great a part in the land struggle. The Indian Navy and Air Force are growing in numbers, in equipment, in skill, in reputation.

INDIA'S NATIONHOOD.

The men, who broke the Italian line at Sidi Barrani, and drove them into headlong rout, the men who stormed the heights of Cheren and Amba Alagi, the men who captured Damascus in the face of great odds, the men who fought the rear-guard actions of Malaya and Burma, the men who stood, and stand, dauntless against Rommel's Germans, the men who now protect India on all fronts from her foes, the men who fight as comrades side by side, whatever their caste and creed—these are the defenders of India in her hour of danger. Rajputs, Mahrattas and Madrasis; the great fighting races of the Punjab; Pathans from the Frontier; Jats and Garhwalis; and many others—men of the North, men of the Centre, men of the South, from the whole countryside of India. They fight, together with sturdy Gurkhas of our Ally Nepal, alongside British and Allied troops. These are the true representatives of India's Nationhood.

The eyes of the world are on India; It is her great trial and great opportunity. **It is not politicians, intent on domestic issues and quarrels, it is not undisciplined schoolboys, it is certainly not irresponsible mischief-makers, and gangs of ignorant hooligans, but the disciplined might of her fighting men that is saving and will save India. They must be helped, and not betrayed.**

Lift up your hearts then, and trust in your fighting men. As their representative I proclaim to you my admiration for them, my pride in them, and my trust in them. By their valour you shall conquer.

NO COMPROMISE WITH HITLER

Mr. EDEN'S ADDRESS TO U. S. TROOPS

"There can be no compromise with Hitler. Hitler is an apt pupil in perfidy.

"Hitler has managed to outclass all his predecessors in crime. You must give the devil his due. I sometimes feel that his German ancestors must turn

in their graves with envy when they see how much he has outclassed them in the methods which they taught him.

"Did you notice in his speech the other day that Hitler asked: If to-day British and American agents assert that they desire a new and a better world, why was it necessary for them to attack Germany? Well, that is a good one!

"This is the Hitler who gave smooth assurances to Austria and marched across her border with tanks and guns a few months later: the same Hitler, who proclaimed at Munich he would respect Czechoslovakia and followed this with the invasion of that country: this is the Hitler who boasted of his 10-year pact with Poland and violated it before half the time was up.

"For us, and now for you, there can be no compromise with such treachery. We believe as deeply in the future of the Commonwealth as you believe in the future of the United States. We also believe that our future must be worked out together. It is good for the future of the world that the United States Army should be here."

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

5—9—42 to 11—9—42.

Russia.—The strategic position at Stalingrad is somewhat as follows: In the south-west the German wedge extends the length of the Kotelnikovo Railway to the neighbourhood of the Volga, somewhere between Krasnodar and Stalingrad. Another wedge, helped by the sun-baked terrain here, is probing its way forward on both sides of the Volga-Don Canal, from Kalach, west of Stalingrad. The north-west Panzer 'Corridor' extends to the Volga, where Timoshenko deals shrewd blows. In the Stalingrad area fighting has reached the peak of violence. Every house has been transformed into a fortress, and almost all the industrial plants have been evacuated. The scale and tempo of the battle are increasing.

After taking Anapa, and subsequently Krasnomevidovskaya, the Germans have reached Novorossisk along the Black Sea coast, and by the railway from Krasnodar. Fighting is now in progress in Novorossisk.

In the Mozdak area the German troops which crossed the Terek are being slowed down.

An encouraging feature of the situation, as the *Times*' STOCKHOLM correspondent puts it, is the Russian ability to halt the German penetration and deal shrewd blows in counter-attacks.

Egypt.—Pursued by the 8th Army Rommel is now back at the place where he started. Allied pressure on the enemy is being kept up. Fighting, if any, is all westward. In the words of Wendell Willkie 'a significant battle has been fought, and what has taken place has removed the desert threat to EGYPT. The Boche has been stopped, but not eliminated ; but the battle is as important as that when Napoleon was overcome here 140 years ago'. Here is a graphic account of the action that Mr. Churchill gave the House of Commons on Tuesday.

'Field-Marshal Rommel has been much hampered by the sinking of so many of his supply ships by our submarines, as well as by the British and U. S. air attacks, renewed again from MALTA and also from EGYPT. Under the inconvenience resulting from the pressure, as we may suppose, he came round our southern flank last Monday week in a major offensive, with the whole German Afrika Korps, including the 90th Light Division, two Panzer Divisions and a large part of the 20th Italian Motorised Corps. There was plenty of room for Rommel to execute a turning movement, but it did not seem to our Commanders that Rommel would dare to bypass the Desert Army with its formidable armoured striking power and push on to CAIRO, and in this they were right.

'Rommel strove instead to repeat the tactics he had used at El GAZALA. He was met not only by British armour but by British artillery ussd on a scale hitherto unprecedented. The Axis army was first brought to an abrupt standstill, and then pressed slowly and steadily back, with heavy losses in tanks and vehicles of all kinds.'

China.—The Chinese have recaptured CHINYUNG, ANGKANG, FUYILUPAO, KUNTEIN, YUNGTANG and 25 Japanese posts in the KOYANG area. Fighting for KINHUA continues.

Burma.—AKYAB was bombed twice and the vicinity of TAUNGUP once.

The Pacific.—The Japanese made some advance in the KOKODA area. They also attacked MORESBY with slight damage and no casualties.

The Japanese continued to make fresh attempts to effect fresh landings in several islands of the SOLOMONS south-eastern group. Landing ships were attacked by the U. S. aircraft based on

GUDALCANAR. It is possible that some Japanese managed to land and to slip through and join their compatriots in the interior. These were rounded up by the American submarines.

Milne Bay was being cleared of the enemy. Allied raids on SANTA ISABA Island, KIETA, FAISI, BUKA and LAC are reported.

Air Raids.—The R. A. F. raided SAARBRUCKEN, KARLSRUHE, BREMEN and DUISBURG.

The American Army Air Force attacked LE HAVRE, ROUEN, MEAULTA, ST. OMER, BOULOGNE, ROTTERDAM and UTRECHT.

The Red Air Force raided POLAND and EAST PRUSSIA.

Miscellaneous.—(1) The conditions under which BRITAIN will aid the U. S. have been published. BRITAIN will provide the U. S. free of charge supplies and services of all kinds needed for the U. S. forces both in the United Kingdom and in the colonies, and for the construction of military work.

(2) July and August have proved the most successful months for the number of U-boats destroyed. On the east coast of AMERICA and in the Carribean the situation has substantially improved.

(3) In the eastern Mediterranean, seven enemy merchantships have been sunk by British submarines in the last few weeks. Other ships were damaged. These losses were in addition to those sunk by the R. A. F. and naval aircraft.

(4) It is now revealed that an Anglo-American Conference was held in July for 10 days in LONDON, at which the conduct of the war was canvassed. In the words of Mr. Churchill, 'decisions of importance were taken, affecting the whole future of the general conduct of our operations not only in EUROPE but throughout the world.'

(5) The U. S. have rejected the protest of the VICHY Government against the American bombing of towns in occupied FRANCE. The U. S. Government have informed Laval that military plants located in FRANCE and useful to the Germans will be bombed 'at every opportunity.'

(6) Mr. Wendell Willkie—President Roosevelt's special envoy visited CAIRO and is now in ANKARA.

(7) Senor Serrano Suner—SPAIN's Foreign Minister has resigned and has been succeeded by General Jordana.

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES.

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies	Aircraft losses for Enemies.
31—8—42 (Monday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
No information available.			
LIBYA.			
Enemy motor transports and tanks in the battle area.	Several vehicles damaged.		
Axis landing grounds behind the lines.			
Supporting the eighth army on the battle-field.			
The harbour and dock facilities at TOBRUK.			
RUSSIA.			
Air combats and aircraft on the ground all along the Eastern Front.			
FAR EAST.			
No information available.			
1—9—42 (Tuesday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
NIGHT :—			
SAARBRUCKEN.			
Laying mines in enemy coastal waters.			
WARSAW (By Russian planes).			
LIBYA.			
Enemy transport vehicles in the battle area.			
Offensive sweeps over the battle area.			
Landing grounds behind the enemy's lines.			
MEDITERRANEAN.			
An enemy convoy in the MEDITERRANEAN. One ship hit.			
Shipping in CANDIA harbour.			
RUSSIA.			
Air combats along the entire battle-field.			
FAR EAST.			
No information available.			

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies
2—9—42 (Wednesday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
NIGHT :—			
KARLSRUHE (in upper RHINELAND).			
Laying mines in enemy waters.			
LIBYA.			
Fighter sweeps over the battle-field.			6 bombers and 9 fighters.
Enemy vessels along the AFRICAN coast.			
Landing grounds at DABA.			
Intensive support to the 8th Army on the battle-field.			
Many motor transport vehicles and tanks behind the enemy's rear.			
RUSSIA.			
Air combats and grounded aircraft along the whole Russian Front.			
FAR EAST—NEW GUINEA.			
Aerodrome installations at LAE.			
Enemy positions and lines of communications at KOKODA.			
SOLOMONS.			
Aerodrome and runaway installations at BUKA.			
Enemy shipping off the north coast of SANTA ISABEL Islands.			
3—9—42 (Thursday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
NIGHT :—			
Military and Industrial objectives on the North-West coast of GERMANY.			
BUDAPEST. (By Russian planes).			

LIBYA.

Enemy tanks and vehicles in the battle area. — Many fires started.

The harbour and shipping at TOBRUK.
Fighter sweeps over the battle area. — 3 planes.
Enemy shipping north of TOBRUK. — 2 vessels and a destroyer sunk.

Eastbound vehicles on the road between SOLLUM and SIDI BARRANI.

RUSSIA.

Air combats along the entire front.

FAR EAST—SOLOMONS.

Enemy installations in the landing ground area at KIETA.

Two enemy flying boats in the harbour at FAISI.

NEW GUINEA.

SALAMAUA.
Enemy lines of communication at KOKODA.

CHINA.

25 Japanese junks loaded with supplies on POYONG Lake. — A number of boats burnt.

Japanese steamers in the SINGTZE-HANKOW channel. — 7 steamers sunk.

Japs troop train on the KIUKIANG-NANCHANG Railway.

Jap headquarters at WINCHANG.

Aerial combat over south of HENGYANG.

Air combats over LINGLING. — 2 planes.

4—9—42 (Friday).

GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.

NIGHT:—
BREMEN. — Many fires started.

Offensive patrols over Northern FRANCE.
Laying mines in enemy waters.
BUDAPEST (By Russian planes).
} 11 planes.

LIBYA.

Enemy transports behind the lines.

CRETE.

Shipping facilities and the power station at CANDIA BAY.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft along the whole Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

No information available.

5—9—42 (Saturday).

GERMNAY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.

DAY:—
The docks at LE HAVRE.
The railway yards at ROUEN. — 6 planes.
An enemy airfield at ABBEVILLE.
An airframe factory at MEAULTE.
An aerodrome at ST. OMER.
Diversionary sweeps over occupied FRANCE.
} 2 fortresses and 3 fighters.

NIGHT:—
The docks at BULOGNE. — No loss.

LIBYA.

The harbour and shipping at TOBRUK.
Enemy vehicles and tank concentrations in the battle area.
Landing grounds behind the enemy's rear.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the entire Front.

FAR EAST—BURMA.

The port of AKAYAB.
An important road in the vicinity of TAUNGUP.

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES—*cont.*

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.
5—9—42 (Saturday)—cont.				
	NEW GUINEA.			
	The aerodrome and the surrounding area at BUNA.			
	Grounded aircraft, fuel dumps, huts, motor vehicles and barges in the BUNA area.			
	Enemy positions in the KOKODA area.			
	Destroying the remnants of enemy guerilla forces in the MILNE BAY area.			
	CHINA.			
	KINHWA			
6—9—42 (Sunday).				
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
DAY:—				
	Military and industrial objectives in northern FRANCE.			
	Offensive sweeps over the ENGLISH CHANNEL.			
NIGHT:—				
	Military objectives at DUISBERG and elsewhere in the RUHR.	Big fires started.	2 planes.	
	Offensive Patrols over the enemy occupied territory.			
	Enemy shipping off the FRISIAN Islands and in the ENGLISH CHANNEL.			
	LIBYA.			
	Offensive patrols over the battle area.			
	Enemy motor vehicles and other tank concentrations in the battle area.			
	Landing grounds behind the enemy's rear.			
	RUSSIA.			
	Air combats and grounded aircraft along the entire Russian front.			
	FAR EAST—BURMA.			
	The barracks and a wireless station at AKYAB.		No loss.	
	South-West PACIFIC.			
	Reconnaissance over the North-Western sector.			
	NEW GUINEA.			
	Destroying the remnants of the Jap army in the MILNE BAY area.			
7—9—42 (Monday).				
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
DAY:—				
	The Schiedam shipyards near ROTTERDAM.			
	The railway yards at UTRECHT.			
	Diversionary sweeps over the occupied territory.			

ENEMY Air Raids over Allied Territories.

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Enemies	Aircraft losses for Allies
1—9—42 (Tuesday).				
	BRITAIN.			
NIGHT:—				
	A point on the south east coast of ENGLAND.			
	RUSSIA.			
	STALINGRAD.			
	EGYPT.			
	CAIRO area ...	5 killed, 24 wounded.		

ENEMY Air Raids over ALLIED Territories—*cont.*

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Enemies	Aircraft losses for Allies
2—9—42 (Wednesday)			
BRITAIN.			
DAY:—			
A place on the south and **another** on the south-east coast of ENGLAND.		2 planes.	
NIGHT:—			
Widely separated points in East and North-Eastern ENGLAND.	Slightly damaged.	2 planes.	
RUSSIA.			
STALINGRAD and **NOVOROSSISK.**			
3—9—42 (Thursday).			
BRITAIN.			
No information available.			
PALESTINE.			
HAIFA.	Negligible damage.		
RUSSIA.			
STALINGRAD.			
4—9—42 (Friday).			
BRITAIN.			
DAY:—			
A place on the south-east coast of ENGLAND and **another** on the south-west coast.			
NIGHT:—			
No air activity.			
RUSSIA			
STALINGRAD.			

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Enemies	Aircraft losses for Allies
5—9—42 (Saturday).			
BRITAIN.			
NIGHT:—			
LONDON area (only an alert).			
NIGHT:—			
No information available.			
EGYPT.			
ALEXANDRIA area.			
RUSSIA.			
STALINGRAD.			
NOVOROSSISK.			
6—9—42 (Sunday).			
BRITAIN.			
NIGHT:—			
Some places in North-East ENGLAND.			
EAST ANGLIA.			
RUSSIA.			
STALINGRAD.			
CHINA.			
The towns of FYKIEN and TANG CHING.			
7—9—42. (Monday).			
BRITAIN.			
NIGHT:—			
Coastal areas of South-east ENGLAND.			
LONDON (only a brief alert).			
MEDITERRANEAN.			
Reconnaissance over MALTA.			
RUSSIA.			
NOVOROSSISK.			

SIDE LIGHTS.

PRAYER. On the sixth of September two-thirds nearly of the human race, of many races, nationalities and creeds turned to God in prayer to give the strength that sustains. From multi-million voices, on bended knee, have gone to the foot-steps of the Almighty the thanks of Thirty Nations for the successes that have been vouchsafed to the cause of Freedom, and Right.

For three years now, this war—greater than bards have ever sung—has been waged against a modern Faust armed with all the devilry of hell. He has brought sorrow to millions of homes: he has laid waste hundreds of cities. This is the hour of prayer.

In olden times, in INDIA, the monster of BERCHTESGADEN would have been called a demon and God would have been invoked to incarnate, that is, to descend on earth to rid it of the oppression.

To-day we invoke the Divine Spirit to give us the strength to march to victory.

For even in this age of steel and iron, the machine, powerful as it is, can still be conquered by the spirit. Were it not so, in the hour of BRITAIN's unpreparedness, Hitler's tanks and guns would have given him victory. But to-day in the strength of the undying spirit which is BRITAIN's, the miracle has been achieved and BRITAIN, practically unarmed two years ago, like David, flung a stone and threw down Goliath.

To-day—BRITAIN with her Empire is infinitely stronger—thanks be given to the Lord God of Hosts. She has forged the weapons of war, gathered her legions and is assisted by a multitude of Nations, with their arsenals and armies.

Our prayers have been heard. Right has given us Might: Doubt has changed to Faith: Fear has been transfigured to Courage, to unconquerable Hope, such as the poet has sung, of

'One who never turned his back but marched breast forward
Never doubted clouds would break,
Never dreamed, though right were worsted, wrong would triumph,
Held We fall to rise, are baffled to fight better.'

THE WAR SITUATION. But for the failure of Rommel's attempt to take the offensive in the African Desert, the news of the week does not call for any special comment.

STALINGRAD's peril is increasing hourly. The Nazis have penetrated the city from the south-west. The Russian counter-attack at the KLETSKAYA end has not developed.

In the Black Sea, ANAPPA has fallen, and NOVOROSSISK is exposed to double attack from Nazi forces landed on the coast and from those coming from KROSNODAR by rail.

The German advance on GROZNY, after crossing the TEREK at MOZDOK is being slowed down.

At El ALAMEIN the offensive that Rommel started at HEMAIMAT has fizzled out: he is now where he started from.

In the SOLOMONS a fresh enemy attempt to land has been repulsed.

At Milne Bay the Japanese landing has failed.

In the KOKODA region there is some Japanese activity.

Chinese recovery in the eastern provinces continues. KINHWA has been encircled. One by one the "Bomb-TOKYO" bases are being recaptured.

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THE BATTLE FOR SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC.

We now have fuller details of the series of operations which have culminated in the establishment of American forces in six islands of the SOLOMONS group. The belated publication of the details is typical o American cautiousness. In dealing with news from a scattered group of islands it also takes time to collect information; further, it is necessary to wait and see whether the enemy does not counter-attack. It is significant that the *official* information from AMERICA was published only after the Japanese counter-offensive had been repulsed.

Earlier, in the battle of the Coral Sea, the Japanese discovered that the serious set-back that their fleet had received was due to lack of air support from land-bases at hand. Consequently, they effected a landing at GUDALCANAR in the SOLOMONS and hastily began the construction of aerodromes now nearing completion. Had their occupation continued the aerodromes would have been completed, and used as stepping stones to hop to the NEW HEBRIDES, to encircle the Coral Sea and to raid QUEENSLAND.

To prevent it AMERICA planned the invasion of the SOLOMONS. On the night of August 6-7 Admiral Ghormley started the action and struck. The enemy was surprised. U. S. marines landed on TULAGI and GUDALCANAR. Eighteen Japanese sea-planes in TULAGI harbour and a schooner were sunk: the islands were occupied and the enemy was rounded and mopped up. On August 23, a Japanese fleet approaching the islands from the north and north-east was put to flight, chiefly by American planes now established in the newly acquired GUDALCANAR aerodromes. The danger cannot be said to be over yet. But the attack since made by the enemy in NEW GUINEA leads to the conclusion that for the present at least his attempt has been deflected from the SOLOMONS.

The very fact that the Japanese followed up the American occupation of the SOLOMONS by an immediate counter-attack, and the further fact that this time they escorted their transports with battleships, show the great importance they attach to the SOLOMONS. But the use, as at MIDWAY, of the American air arm, to beat off the fleet, also shows the effectiveness of the weapons employed by the Allies.

The Japanese news in English claims to have inflicted heavy losses on the Allies in this naval action. It is not known how the Japanese were able to count the losses in an action which took place at night. The American figures have not been published for reasons of secrecy. But truth of course is not Japan's strong point. Undoubtedly there have been losses on both sides, but the outstanding fact is the result which is that AMERICA is in possession of the islands.

Whereas in the MIDWAY action the American bombers had the advantage of operating from well-established bases, at GUDALCANAR they had to take off from bases which had been in their occupation only for a matter of days. Still in the two air-battles over GUDALCANAR the Americans were able to destroy 33 aircraft against the loss of four.

The Japanese diversionary attack at Milne Bay has also miscarried. Having failed in the earlier attempt to approach MORESBY from BUNA or SALAMUA or KOKODA, they tried Milne Bay. Allied resistance, as well as the natural obstruction presented by the Owen Stanley Range had baffled the enemy before. The present attempt to creep along the coast-line of Milne Bay by infiltration has also been anticipated and thwarted.

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THE GERMAN HOME FRONT. While the Nazi armies are on their wild goose chase for the Caucasus knowing Germans at home are aghast at the deepening gloom in the home front. On August 17, Goebbels himself admitted that the Nazi morale at home was worse than Nazi morale at the front. Four days later he publicly referred to the sorrow which filled every home, because 'there were families who have lost three, four, or even more sons in this war and were threatened with complete extinction.' A Swedish business man returned from a recent extensive tour of GERMANY commenting on the desperate food situation there, has compared it with what obtained in GERMANY in 1918 before her collapse in the last war. *Der Deutsche Landwirt*, the German Agricultural Monthly, admitting food scarcity warns that for the coming season the yield would be 'patchy'. War materials are also lacking; and throwing all pretensions to the wind Dr. Goebbels has confessed that the war was, at present, waged for 'raw materials, for rubber and oil, for iron and ores;' and he has significantly added

'We all know that if we do not succeed this time we never shall.' Gone is the previous certainty of victory; there is no more talk of dictating peace from MOSCOW: the German mind is now filled with gloom: the anxiety is for survival.

Here are some more revealing facts from the report of 'a high official' on Goering's Four year plan; it is intended 'for those who must know the real truth' about GERMANY.

'GERMANY's war machine is stretched almost to the snapping point.... The German labour reserves, including women and foreigners have been completely drained......War industries require a million more workers, agriculture 300,000, coal and iron ore mines, 60,000...No further restrictions are possible in the amount of raw materials released for civilian consumption or in the labour employed in producing them. The absolute minimum has been reached......The present coal production has been achieved through intensive rationalisation and Sunday work......this over-forced tempo can, on no account be continued......Boot and shoe industries are unable to fill even 40 per cent of the civilian requirements. Transport is in chaos; some 15,000 locomotives are urgently needed. Food reserves kept for the coming winter have been already tapped......This is, indeed a crisis, which will deepen, with every day the Russians hold, and with every bomb the Allies drop on German factories. What is much worse is the portent of a double or treble air offensive over GERMANY by the R. A. F; the American Air Force and the Red Air Force; when the nights become longer, BERLIN will have frequent if not daily calls from all these three visitors. The sirens will probably be kept going everyday. STOCKHOLM reports that BERLIN's air defences are being feverishly strengthened and dummy factories, lakes and air-fields are being built to camouflage the city.

Mr. Maisky, the Soviet Ambassador in LONDON, stated on September 6: 'The famous four-figure raids were greeted with such hopes that my country confidently expects that the weight and striking force of your air-offensive against Nazi GERMANY will rapidly and continuously increase.' He added, 'Bomb Nazi GERMANY, Bomb day and night—west, east, north, and south: bomb strongly, incessantly. I hope before long British and Soviet airmen will be meeting over Nazi GERMANY. The sooner this is done, the mightier will be the blow, the steadier will come our victory and the smaller the price we will have to pay for it.

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THE NEW NAZI LAW. Recently we had occasion to report the appointment of Dr. Otto George Thierack as the new Nazi Minister of Justice and the full powers granted to him to change

the Code of Law and Justice as directed by Hitler, and according to Nazi principles. What is Nazi Law? Justice, according to Nazi definition, is what serves 'the *interests* of the German nation' and for the Nazis, the 'German nation' means the Nazis only. Hence Nazi Law is not Justice but only Nazi politics and Nazi administration for Nazi ends, and the Judge is but a tool for carrying out the Nazi purposes. Nazi Law is *deliberately* harsh, and as the *Volkischer Beobachter* has put it, it is 'a return to the old Germanic legal ideas which embodied sufficient harshness to exterminate the pests of the community.'

The 'pests' of course, at present, are the anti-Nazi elements that threaten to overthrow Hitler. To suppress them he has instituted the Waffen S. S., a spying police force placed on a military footing, and a new form of justice justifying oppression and tyranny.

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THE FREE ITALY MOVEMENT. Has taken three different forms. Firstly Randol Piccardi, a veteran of the old Garibaldi Brigade, is reported to be raising a Foreign Legion in the UNITED STATES to fight the Fascists in ITALY.

Secondly, according to a recent publication in the U.S. by 'a person in touch', there is an underground anti-Fascist movement called the Matteottiis—a people's front including all political persuasions from the Social democrat of the left to the Aristocrat of the right.

Thirdly, there is the group comprising Communists and Anarchists—the former among the workers in LOMBARDY and the latter in SICILY.

All the groups, differing as they do in their own aims, are united however in desiring to undermine the present régime, and bring about the downfall of Mussolini.

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THE MIDDLE EAST. 1. *Iraq.*—In spite of every frantic effort German propaganda has not been able to seduce IRAQ or TURKEY. Encouraged by the recent drive towards the CAUCASUS, the lying propaganda has been intensified in these two countries. On August 21, the *Azad Hind*, in its English news, announced that anti-British feeling was high and sabotage was rampant. The Italian news went one step further and declared on August 22 that rebellion had broken out in IRAQ. On the very same day, that is, August 22, Nuri Said, Iraq's Premier nailed the lie to the counter, in an interview, in which he stated that, should the Germans break through the CAUCASUS and reach IRAQ, IRAQ would declare

war and fight at the side of the Allies.' He also referred to his confidence that the Allies would hold the Egyptian front, and expressed his gratitude to the MIDDLE EAST Supply Board for having eased the economic situation in IRAQ.

2. *Turkey.*—On July 29, M. Yalcin exposed the German pretensions in the *Yeni Sabah* in a passage which deserves to be quoted in full:—

"To-day we will go into the question of German propaganda for a few moments, and scrutinize it. According to the information published in broadcasts in the German language by the German radio, the best foreign broadcasts from Berlin comment thus on the present situation:—

(1) After a heavy and terrible winter campaign, the Germans and their Allies have reappeared with more modern and more powerful equipment, and have achieved many successes.

(2) The German air force has fought with many, and more perfect arms, and has achieved brilliant successes.

(3) The submarines of the tripartite nations now possess control of the seas, the Skagerrak, the Kattegat, Gibraltar, Suez and Aden.

(4) The moral of the Axis is higher than ever.

"These constitute the guarantee of victory to the Axis, at least, this is how German propaganda expresses it, and it wishes the German people to believe it. However, that is their affair. For our part, let us admit that all this is true: then why, with an army so powerful and so excellent, has not the Axis in three years, been able to procure a final victory? Yes! the German army has done well, and has had some brilliant successes. But it is not enough to accomplish these spectacular achievements—one must smash the enemy and compel a peace. Actually the Allied forces have done a great deal to the Axis. But the Allies have never pretended to do more than they have done.

"The Allied nations have only taken up arms to fight first for their existence and then for freedom. They are using all they have to defend themselves, and the fact that they are still holding out and resisting, constitutes most certainly a success. The German army is considered marvellous, but so long as it cannot carry away the long-promised victory, so long as it cannot get England to perish from hunger, so long as it cannot prevent an increase of war products and as long as Britain can count on the mounting help of the Allies, and so long as she can take advantage of every opportunity, what is the advantage of performing wonders?"

3. *Iran.*—On August 20 the Shah of IRAN expressing his great admiration for the way in which 'from the King to the humblest citizen, the people of BRITAIN had stood up to enemy bombing' exhorted his people to follow the

British example in time of danger; while on August 25, M. Ravan Sultanch, the new Premier, appealing to his people 'to pull together and avoid internal wrangling and intrigues in times of danger' declared 'his whole-hearted collaboration with the Allies for the maintenance of internal order and security'.

In a recent message to General Nuri el Said expressing regret for his inability to visit BAGHDAD during his MIDDLE EAST tour, Mr. Churchill stated that the defence of IRAQ was a matter of vital concern to the Allies, and that the creation of a separate Iraq-Persian Command was a measure taken towards that end. In reply, General Nuri el Said said, 'We regard the support IRAQ is giving to the cause of GREAT BRITAIN and the United Nations as support given to the cause of the Arabs themselves, for we realise that the Victory of the United Nations will be a Victory for the Arabs, and in the Victory lies the hope of realisation of Arab aspirations for unity'.

4. *Egypt.*—Mr. Churchill's visit to CAIRO has done much to inspire confidence and strengthen the cordial relations which already exist. At a Press Conference here he stated: 'There is one thing which I would like to make absolutely clear. *We are determined to fight for Egypt and the Nile Valley as if it were the soil of England itself.*'

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NEAR-BELLIGERENCY. The State of 'Near Belligerency' which URUGUAY has declared, after BRAZIL's entry into the war, is the American way of saying that though URUGUAY will not actually fight, it will give every help and take all protective measures in conjunction with BRAZIL to safeguard her national integrity and to defend her territory.

This is in keeping with URUGUAY's persistent anti-Axis attitude in the past. It was URUGUAY that proposed in June 1941 that an American power at war with a non-American power should be regarded as a non-belligerent. On this principle she acted on December 8 when the U. S. was attacked by JAPAN. For this reason, on January 24, URUGUAY severed diplomatic relations with the Axis, and in February conceded non-belligerent rights to BRITAIN.

In the last war URUGUAY allowed her harbours to be used by the American warships. She will do so now.

A TOKYO commentary threatens that the U-boat campaign will be intensified hereafter as BRAZIL has joined the war. On the other hand the announcement made by NEW YORK Marine underwriters, that a cut of 5 dollars per hundred has been effected for cargoes over most of the important trade routes, reflects a decrease that has already taken place in the U-boat menace. The July figures show such a decrease. Now that BRAZIL has entered the

war, and URUGUAY has promised coastal co-operation, the Atlantic passage at the 'Straits of Dakar' as it is called, between the American and African bulges is bound to improve.

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BRITAIN. The extent to which the Britisher is prepared to sacrifice his conveniences to win the war is brought out by a communiqué issued by the Ministry of War Transport during he week. In order to meet the growing demand of military traffic and to save oil and rubber, travel by road and rail will be restricted more than before, while 250 more trains will run in the coming winter, in addition to the recent increase of 1,000 trains, for military transport and to carry War workers to the industrial areas. General activities will be localised, that is, every village, town and suburb will be made self-contained as far as possible, and arrange for its own interests and amusements. People of one village will not generally go to the nearest town either for shopping or even for social visits. To ease the pressure on railways full use will be made of canal and coastwise transport, while for road traffic new 'austerity buses' are being constructed, and old buses are being converted to carry 20 to 30 more passengers, standing !!.

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CANADA'S WAR EFFORT. The news of the arrival of a big contingent of troops from CANADA in ENGLAND calls for a review of CANADA's gigantic war effort. Besides supplying vast stores of food CANADA has put into the field half a million fighting men already, not only in ENGLAND but in the WEST INDIES and GIBRALTAR. The Royal Canadian Navy, now 350 strong, keeps the Atlantic lanes open. CANADA is the centre of the Empire Air Training Scheme, and out of its 130 Air schools have issued graduates in 'staggering numbers' who are fighting in every theatre of war. Essentially an agricultural country, she has transformed herself recently into an industrial state, manufacturing warships, cargo boats, guns, tanks and planes.

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SPAIN. Segnor Serrano Suner, Spanish Minister has resigned, and has been succeeded by General Jordana. There has also been a general reshuffle of the Cabinet. The changes are due no doubt to the recent attempt on the life of General Varela, former Minister of War, by the Falangist extremists. In the reconstructed Cabinet the Falangist (Fascist) party has lost ground to the Traditionalists, and it is possible that General Franco, in future, will follow a more neutral policy.

It is significant that in a recent statement President Roosevelt has promised SPAIN American help to repair the historic monuments damaged

in the late civil war, if SPAIN would only remain neutral in the present war. SALAMANCA, SEVILLE, MADRID, BARCELONA and VALENCIA—culturally important all of them, were ruined in the civil war by shell and bomb. GUERNICA, the holy city of the Basques was completely obliterated. In TOLEDO Gothic and Moorish architecture and art were destroyed,

MINISTER OF GREATER EAST ASIA. JAPAN has created a new Ministry called the Ministry of Greater East ASIA to administer her newly conquered provinces. But it means much more than mere window-dressing to create the impression of a new-born empire. It is a sinister arrangement to reduce BURMA, MALAYA and other recently occupied countries to a status even inferior to that of MANCHUKUO or NANKING, JAPAN's earlier victims. In these cases there is at least the farce of a puppet government of their own, with only a Japanese embassy or legation in governance. In the case of BURMA and other recent victims, even this show has been dropped, and the countries are to be administered directly from JAPAN by the Minister of Greater East ASIA at TOKYO.

JAPAN is also displaying her cloven foot in other ways. The Thakins, the Fascist clique in BURMA that played the traitor are meeting with their reward. Quite a number of them have been killed, on the plea that people who betray once will betray again.

Burmese evacuees narrate hair-raising tales of Japanese cruelties practised in BURMA including inhuman treatment of women, and forced labour.

BRITAIN DIGS FOR VICTORY.

The first thing noticed by a visitor to peace time England was the rich green pasture covering mile after mile of rolling fields. The train from Southampton or Plymouth or Liverpool to London passed banks on either side of the railway brightly carpeted with green. In Spring primroses and bluebells pushed their heads through the grass.

The scene is different now. Those green fields have changed to brown—the rich brown earth of England. Hundreds of thousands of acres of that lush, green grass have been ploughed up. Miles of those bright railway embankments have turned into miniature gardens.

The green fields of Britain have become part of Britain's front line battle against Hitler's blockade. He has tried bombing Britain, has probably thought many times of invading her shores, but there's one onslaught in which there has been no respite since the day war began. Hitler's prowling bombers and submarines have never ceased to haunt the sea approaches to Britain in their hunt for her richly laden convoys.

There are over 40,000,000 men, women and children in the British Isles to be fed. A substantial proportion of their food must be brought from overseas.

ACHIEVED WONDERS.

An overwhelmingly large proportion of ships bound for these shores reach port and unload safely, but every fresh extension of the war means still heavier demands on shipping. The more self-supporting Britain can be made in respect of food, the more of those ships are free to transport men and materials to vital theatres of war.

So Britain digs for victory! She is digging and ploughing and sowing as never before. Already farmers and gardeners have achieved wonders, and this year they plan to break still further records.

British farmers and gardeners last year produced more food than in any previous year. Mr. Robert Hudson, Minister of Agriculture, has made plans to enable them to produce still more this year.

There are to be thousands more acres of sugar-beet. It is hoped to double the pre-war potato crop. Britain is going to have more sheep and beef cattle, and the milk yield is to be raised by hundreds of thousands of gallons.

WOMEN'S LAND ARMY.

By the time the present ploughing programme is completed nearly 6,000,000 acres will have been added to the total area of arable land since the war began. Already the production of cereals and straw has been increased by 50 per cent.

Thousands of farm-hands have been called up for active service. Their place has been taken by a volunteer band of sturdy young women—Britain's Women's Land Army—which now totals 21,000. Their numbers are increasing every day, and already there are 5,000 more of them at work than during the last war.

Numbers of Italian prisoners, captured in the African campaigns, are assisting with farm work. Five thousand of these men are now at work on Britain's Farms, and soon still more of them will be employed in this way.

There's another side of this story which concerns the gardeners—millions of them in cities and towns and villages throughout the country.

Nearly every house in England has a garden. In peace-time these are gay with flowers, usually around a green lawn. Half those lawns, and most of the flowers have gone now. Carnations have given way to cabbages, chrysanthemums to cauliflowers. Where primroses raised their bright yellow heads, peas and potatoes now flourish in neat rows.

ALLOTMENTS.

But besides cultivating the gardens at their own homes, Britain's business men Britain's city clerks, shop assistants and Civil Servants are helping to feed themselves and their families and their friends by growing vegetables on extra plots called allotments.

Each allotment is about large enough to give one man all he can manage in the way of digging and planting in his spare time. They are probably each about 30 feet wide and 90 feet long, and properly tended they can provide enough potatoes and green vegetables to last a family of two or three people all through the year.

LITTLE GARDENERS.

Before the war there were about 1,000,000 allotments in Britain. Already 600,000 new allotments are under cultivation, and with all the odd little corners of ground and extra bits of garden that have recently been dug up, the original acreage of these small vegetable plots is at least doubled by now.

It was reckoned that Britain's "Little Gardeners" produced pretty well £ 30,000,000 worth of vegetables in their spare time efforts last year. **That is a considerable achievement when you come to consider that these men have taken on this vegetable-growing as a hobby. They have all a job to do in the daytime, and most of their gardening is done at week-ends.**

RUSSIAN WAR THEATRE.

ON THE THRESHOLD OF THE CAUCASUS.

by

R. J. de TOUCHE.

(*The Times of India.*)

When the German armies turned to the South after having crossed the Don delta, they left behind them the fertile plains of the Eastern Ukraine. The steppes of the North Caucasian plains spread before them in a dreary flat

grassland. The horizon to the East and South flickers in the dry summer heat, only at long intervals is there a tree or shrub in sight. The grass is dry and burned by the sun. Farther to the south-east stretches a salty desert intersected by small lakes and rivulets, which are devoid of life and their water is unfit for human consumption. Desert grass sprouts covering unfertile soil. The landscape to the south is dotted with the huts of the Kuban Cossacks. But only the scorched remains of human dwellings extend a grim welcome to the invader. There is no comfort for them among the charred, smouldering timber of the homes of those Cossacks, who have retired farther south with their families, after having destroyed everything which they were unable to carry with them.

KUBAN RIVER.

Cutting across the northern plain with razor-sharp edges fringing the precipitous banks, flows the swift Kuban river. This was the last natural obstacle to the Nazis before they reached the rising foothills of the North Caucasian mountain chain. This second defence line of the Caucasus proper is likely to delay further German progress for some time, but natural obstacles in the shape of swamps, rivers and mountains have never been unsurmountable to a well-equipped invader. Yet history records that a brave and fighting people have been able to defend themselves successfully and resist the invader, seemingly against all the rules of strategy and tactics.

It is well known that it took the Imperial Russian army seventy years to conquer the Caucasus. Outnumbered, and facing a Russian force with superior equipment to their own, the hardy Caucasian tribes fought from mountain heights and narrow passes for many years. It should be remembered that the Yugoslav army of General Mikhailovitch is still successfully defying the Nazis and Italians in the Balkans. Wild and mountainous countries defended by stout-hearted peoples have preserved their liberty and independence like those of Switzerland and Montenegro for many centuries.

POOR ROADS.

The conquest of the Caucasus presents a formidable problem even to the best equipped army in the world. Nazi tanks, heavy artillery, planes and paratroops will find comparatively little application here. There are few roads over the extremely steep passes of the wild interior. Bridges over deep and perilous rivers are few, and the only railway link is vulnerable because of bridges and tunnels which it traverses. All these lines of communication are not likely to be left in serviceable condition to the enemy. The population, tough and warlike since the dawn of history, will take to the trusty rifle and *inial* (dagger) and make for the hills. A guerilla war of the first order, and the greatest savagery imaginable, will make the progress of the German war machine slow and painful.

Nazi penetration into the Northern Caucasus will give them little comfort and relief. Wild hillsides covered with pine and devoid of agriculture face the intruder. Here the highest mountain in Europe, Elburz (the Northern Caucasus lies within the confines of Europe) towers to a height of 18,572 feet. Toward the South, the Caucasus is sub-tropic. Rice, cotton and a rich variety of fruits ripen here in a warm climate similar to Kashmir. Palms and other tropical vegetation flourish under a blue and warming sky. The South is warm even in winter.

The ultimate aim of the German army is, of course, the main oil fields which are situated around Baku on the Caspian Sea and in the vicinity of Batum on the Black Sea. The Russians, who are past masters in the application of the scorched earth policy are, however, not likely to neglect the complete devastation of all oil fields and refineries in the Caucasus when and if the German forces approach the coveted oil.

TANKERS.

Neither Germany nor any of the satellite Balkan States possesses anything in the way of sea-going tankers in the Black Sea. The river tankers which ply on the Danube between Rumania and Germany are not suited for shipping oil across the Black Sea. The land route by rail from the Caucasus to Germany is not likely to solve Germany's immediate transport difficulties. The Baku oil fields, which are the more important production centre, rely upon tankers in the Caspian Sea. Here again German expectations may be frustrated because the Russians are certain to ensure the complete destruction of all Caspian tankers, if necessary.

Those who have visited Kashmir and the North-West Frontier Province, which are in many respects similar to the Caucasus, will appreciate the difficulties confronting the Germans once they begin to penetrate the Caucasian mountains. While road conditions in Northern India may be classed as good, those existing in the Caucasus are very far from satisfactory. Under the Tsarist régime one single road was constructed many years ago and has not been brought up to date since. The road frequently runs along steep mountain slopes supported only by piled up beds of rock. It clings perilously like a swallow's nest to bare rock thousands of feet above a yawning precipice, and winds in giddy hairpins and cuts through tunnels to the snow line. Rickety bridges slung across roaring torrents on wire rope are no terrain on which to deploy heavy *panzer* divisions.

GUERILLAS.

While the main force of the invader would naturally be confined to the main highway (if this has remained in an even passable condition!) guerilla mountaineers would swarm up and around on footpaths.

Nazi propaganda may have partially succeeded in alienating the Muslim Caucasian tribes from the Soviet creed, but it will never succeed in converting the Caucasian tribes from their inborn hatred of any invader and conqueror.

As the Nazis near the Caspian, they approach scorched steppes where only the Bactrian camel and the sheep of the nomadic tribes of the Khirgiz and Kalmuk Mongol and the Kuban Cossack managed to eke out a frugal existence.

Two months remain for the German Army until the weather brings reinforcements to the hard pressed Russians. There is yet plenty of fighting spirit left in the Russian defenders in the Cacausus and else where. That the Nazis appreciate the strategic advantage of mountain defence is borne out by their preference for Holland and Belgium, leaving Switzerland well alone, when they attacked France.

Stalin, who is of Caucasian stock, has proved himself to be a resolute leader and fighter, and if he represents the average type of his countrymen, the Nazis will have no easy task before them.

M. MOLOTOV

(*The Observer.*)

A young man of thirty with a mop of dark hair and a pale rather impassive face sits at a table. Before him pass a motley crowd—peasants, merchants, guerillas, townspeople. They all talk. He listens. He has been listening now for two or three days, making notes and occasionally breaking into the flow of talk and explanation and complaint. At last the endless conferences are over. He gets up, gives orders, chooses his officers. In a short time a functioning administration is built on the ruins left by the armies of Koltchak and Denikin and by two years' civil war. The economic wheels begin to grind again. The province " finds itself." The place is the Volga region, the time 1919, and the man Vyacheslav Mikhailovitch Molotov. Lenin had entrusted him with what might be called a " breakdown job ", and he and Krupskaya set sail down the Volga on the *Red Star*, she attending to propaganda, he to the mechanics of political and economic reconstruction. And this was no chance mission. It gives a key to the man himself.

Molotov is primarily the engineer of politics—it is no coincidence that he studied engineering during his Petersburg days. He has been at the centre of the vast executive machine of the Soviet Union ever since the Revolution. He was made a secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party in 1921, a position he retained until 1930. In that year he became President of

the Council of People's Commissars for another eleven years. Then, in 1941, when Stalin took over the Presidency—it roughly corresponds to the post of Prime Minister here—Molotov became Foreign Minister. This has been his background of permanent responsibility; but the Volga provinces were not his only "breakdown job." In 1934 the foundations were being laid for the vast expansion of Soviet industry in the Urals. The region had to be mapped out politically and economically. The problems of initiating big industry on a titanic scale in the minimum amount of time called for a supreme effort in social engineering. The job was entrusted—inevitably—to Molotov.

This pre-occupation with the practical side of government has led to a number of misconceptions about the man. Some have talked of him almost as though he were a man of straw, a creature of Stalin's with no independent powers of thought or action. Such a view obviously ignores his genius for bringing order out of chaos. It also leaves on one side the revolutionary years. Young Molotov was a revolutionary before he was sixteen, and was exiled for the first time before he was twenty. The police officials at Vologda were shrewd men. They gave a brilliant word-picture of the exile in their report: "The prisoner Molotov is distinguished by his intimate knowledge of Social Democracy and *is an organiser to be reckoned with.*" So Lenin and Stalin discovered much later on. So, too, did the men of the Volga provinces and the Urals. Molotov's peculiar genius was apparent—even to his enemies—long before his association with Stalin began. Another myth is that he is nothing but the bureaucrat. True, he is not a glamorous figure. He is not a great orator, though he has conquered an early stammer in the last ten years. But then, he is content that the more rhetorical rôles should pass to others. Administering the Soviet Union is a whole-time job. But even if he is not the theorist and the prophet of the Russian experiment, it should not be forgotten that from 1912 to 1915—the year of his second exile—he was associated editorially with "Pravda," and after his escape in 1916 returned to his post as secretary of the Editorial Board. The mere bureaucrat is not a successful editor, least of all of a revolutionary paper.

The legend of the dull, insipid fellow has even spread to his personal life. Here it makes complete nonsense. He may not be boisterous. His face is calm, rather pale, his manner of dressing very correct, his speech the rather careful speech of those who have mastered a stammer. But anyone who has really come into contact with him knows his fund of laughter, his wide interests—the violin, for example—Scriabin is one of his family names, and the great violinist was a near relative; fishing, tennis, country life, above all, his comradeship with the people he works with or has around him. His friendship with Stalin is proverbial; but what of the generations of Moscow children who year in and year out visit him after their stay in their summer camp

at Artek; or the workers in the factories who in the early pre-Revolution days gave the serious lanky student delivering Social-Democratic tracts the affectionate nickname "Uncle"? This is the other side of the social engineer, the tenacious bureaucrat, the skilled administrator. Only with it the picture is complete.

THE STRUGGLE IN NORWAY.

(*New Statesman and Nation*).

Nazi rule creates nightmare conditions, of which Norway furnishes a contemporary example. Quisling is waging against the opposition a war, the more ruthless because his *Nasjonal Samling* is so ineffective—even its sports organisation is largely boycotted by an athletic people. Almost his first act as Minister President was the February decree ordering all children from 10 to 18 to serve in the Nasjonal Samling youth. The bishops' warning against this act was met by the dismissal of the State Lutheran Bishop Berggrav of Oslo. Thereupon all the bishops resigned, backed by the Free churches and University professors. Out of 10,800 school teachers 9,000 resigned; 280 were arrested as Saboteurs in Oslo alone; 2,000 the country over by the end of March. On March 22nd came the statement read from the pulpits that the clergy made respect for the Churches' views in the education of youth a condition of their remaining in office, and a fortnight later the pastors read out individual letters of resignation severing their connection with the State, but agreeing to continue to christen, marry and bury their flocks. This Quisling forbade, threatened to dismiss 1,100 clergy, and sent Bishop Berggrav and other leaders to a concentration camp. It is said that the Bishop has been sent to Germany, following Professor Seip, the Rector of Oslo University. Norway was thus faced with an almost complete breakdown of church life and education. Indeed, Quisling, under German instructions, has retreated slightly on the anti-clerical front, and is trying to fix up some sort of compromise. But the teachers, unprotected by a sacred office, have been more harshly treated. This week news has come that 500 of them have been sent to the north aboard an old coastal steamer. The Quisling Governor of Trondheim himself protested when they started that there was no room for them to lie down at night, inadequate cooking galleys, water, and sanitation; and cases of pneumonia, cerebral haemorrhage, and insanity occurred among the teachers.

Quisling's reply to this protest and to an appeal from Trondheim clergy was that it was the teachers who were to blame, and that the clergy must

"talk them into reason." The courage and co-operation of the Norwegian ministers and teachers are wonderful; they realise that they fight on the most vital front. If the children are to be saved from absorption in the Nazi youth machine, they must be aware of a continuous spiritual and intellectual opposition from their natural leaders. To-day, the fight is fully maintained.

THOUGHTS OF THE WEEK.

Sir Archibald Sinclair, The British Air Minister: "The Allied air forces are forming the spearhead of the growing forces of the United Nations."

Mr. C. R Attlee, The Deputy Prime Minister and Dominions' Secretary: "Day by day, week by week the United Nations add to their strength in the armed forces and munitions of war. Their efforts have not yet reached the peak."

"Our enemies long ago passed theirs and have suffered great losses. We must expect further difficulties, but the issue is sure."

Mr. Arthur Greenwood, Leader of the Labour Party: "The fourth year will, I believe, be a decisive year. The United Nations are already passing from defence to attack with ever-increasing striking power."

Lord Selborne, Minister of Economic Warfare: "The results of economic pressure on the German Home Front are now impossible to conceal. So long as we are able to maintain the blockade, the economic difficulties facing the German Government will increase. The war cannot be won by blockade alone, but as in 1918 it may well be one of the decisive factors in undermining the resistance of the German people, and so hastening the day of their military defeat."

Lord Woolton, Minister of Food: "Great Britain faces the fourth war winter, fighting fit. Our ships will bring us enough food to serve our needs, but no more. We are a better people than we were—better in outlook and better in health."

Mr. Amery, Secretary of State for India: "We were slow to realise our danger and behindhand in our preparations. But we have made up for lost time and we must now make for the lost opportunity."

Mr. Ernest Brown, Minister of Health: "Britain enters the fourth year of the war sound in health as well as in heart."

Sir Walter Citrine, General Secretary of the Madras Union Council: "Two thirds of the population in Britain of over 14 years of age were engaged in war effort, and over 60,00,000 women were employed.

Remarkable results had been achieved in American war production, but it would be false modesty not to say that Britain's output per worker in munition industries would compare favourably with any in the world".

The *Times*: "Such a moment of transition brings its urgent and searching challenge. The long fight for survival is ending; the fight for victory must soon begin. This requires a far more closely articulated pattern of strategy than that which has sustained us unconquered through the long defensive years.

"Not only must all the three fighting Services on all Fronts, where they fight to-day or will fight hereafter, move and strike in the rhythm of a single plan; beyond that there is still to be achieved the ultimate inter-locking of plans of each Ally with the plan of all, so that leadership may be pooled not less effectively than the material resources of the alliance."

The *Daily Mail*: "The war will certainly be hard and it may be long. To frustrate the assaults of the enemy will not be enough. He must be dislodged from the regions he has overrun, and the war must be carried into his own country. This time, there must be an Allied occupation of Berlin, also of Rome and Tokyo."

The *News Chronicle*: "We face this fourth year in no mood of boastfulness or of over-confidence. Two things are in need to make the Allied position impregnable—total effort for the common cause and unification of production and strategy."

The *Daily Telegraph*: "The British Commonwealth, Russia and the United States control so much of the land and sea of the world that their co-operation has only to be maintained for the most desperate efforts of the Axis to be shattered against it. In manpower, machine power and raw materials, the Allies have an advantage which will grow greater with the prolongation of war."

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

(1). BRITAIN'S COMMANDOS.

A recent issue of *Time* contains some interesting sidelights on Britain's Commandos. It is not generally known, for example, that Commandos are made to buy their own food and cook their own meat; they must also find their own lodging.

In a rigid hard training they learn how to stalk in woods and fields; master the art of jiujitsu; and most important of all learn to kill—and to kill quietly. A favourite weapon is a long knife sharpened on both edges and carried in a trouser sheath; daggers, clubs, spiked brass knuckles are also used.

On raids they blacken their faces and shoes, and wear black uniforms; this for a double purpose, partly camouflage, partly for effect on enemy morale. It was Mr. Churchill who gave them their name. The Commandos themselves have coined a descriptive phrase for their work "butcher & bolt."

(2). THE TANK.

Relating how the "tank" first got its name, Major Paul C. Raborg tells this story in his book entitled "Mechanized Might".

"The British built the first tank in World War I with complete secrecy. Even the workmen who made them did not know for what purpose they were being built. They were told that the machines were to be used in Egypt for transporting large containers of water, and every record in connection with their manufacture was made under the heading 'water carrier'. Eventually the men in the factories adopted the word 'tank' for brevity. The name stuck and is now used by practically all countries."

PROGRAMME OF LECTURES

OF THE

Pudukkottai State National War Front Bureau.

LECTURE CXII—(*Batch 4*).

1942— September	...12, Saturday ...	Muslim Association, Pudukkottai.	7.00 p. m.
	13, Sunday ...	Nirpalani ...	7.00 p. m.
		Avoor ...	7.30 p. m.
	15, Tuesday ...	College (A) English ...	10.15 a. m.
		Karaiyur ...	7.00 p. m.
		Idaiyattur ...	7.30 p. m.
	16, Wednesday.	C. S. M. High School ...	10.00 a. m.
		Rani's High School ...	10.15 a. m.
		College Tamil (Branch School)	10.15 a. m.
		Vadavalam ...	7.00 p. m.
		Sammattividuthi ...	7.30 p. m.
	17, Thursday ...	Kiranur ...	7.00 p. m.
		Nanjur ...	7.30 p. m.
	18, Friday	Nartamalai ...	7.00 p. m.
		Uppiliyakkudi ...	7.30 p. m.

LECTURE CXIII—(*Batch 5*).

19, Saturday ...	Town Hall ...	6.30 p. m.
20, Sunday ...	Tiruvarangulam ...	7.00 p. m.
	Vamban ...	7.30 p. m.
21, Monday ...	Pichchittanpatti ...	7.00 p. m.
	Tulaiyanur ...	7.00 p. m.
	Malaikkudippatti ...	7.30 p. m.
22, Tuesday ...	College (A) English ...	10.15 a. m.
	Vellanur ...	7.00 p. m.
	Sembattur ...	7.30 p. m.
23, Wednesday.	C. S. M. High School ...	10.00 a. m.
	Rani's High School ...	10.15 a. m.
	College Tamil (Branch School)	10.15 a. m.
	Kulavoippatti ...	7.00 p. m.
	Kilaiyur (South) ...	7.30 p. m.
24, Thursday...	Pallivasal ...	7.00 p. m.
	Pillamangalam ...	7.30 p. m.
25, Friday ...	Puliyur ...	7.00 p. m.
	Kannangudi ...	7.30 p. m.

THE FOLLOWING PLACES WILL BE VISITED BY THE ADVERTISING PARTY OF THE NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU FROM 4 P. M. TO 5 P. M. ON THE DAYS NOTED BELOW. THE STATE BAND WILL PLAY; POSTERS WILL BE EXHIBITED; AND HAND-BILLS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AND EXPLAINED.

Saturday	...	12— 9—42	...	Vettamviduthi.
Sunday	...	13— 9—42	...	Virachchilai.
Monday	...	14— 9—42	...	Viralimalai.
Tuesday	...	15— 9—42	...	Konapattu.
Wednesday	...	16— 9—42	...	Rayavaram.
Thursday	...	17— 9—42	...	Kulipirai.
Friday	...	18— 9—42	...	Pudukkottai.
Saturday	...	19— 9—42	...	Tirumayyam.
Sunday	...	20— 9—42	...	Maruthankoneviduthi
Monday	...	21— 9—42	...	Arimalam.
Tuesday	...	22— 9—42	...	Kudumiyamalai.
Thursday	...	24— 9—42	...	Kilanilai.
Friday	...	25— 9—42	...	Pappapatti.

Sri Brihadamba State Press, Pudukkottai. 1,000—12-9-42.